United Nations E/AC.51/2008/1

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2008

Original: English

**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
**Forty-eighth session**
**Organizational session, 30 April 2008**
**Substantive session, 9 June-3 July 2008**
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

## Annotated provisional agenda

### Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session.

08-24668 (E) 140308

## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed the decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of its Chairman, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups in the following pattern of rotation: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and Other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At its forty-eighth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Asian States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely, the Group of Western European and Other States.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session, together with the list of documentation requested.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and General Assembly resolution 59/267, the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Council and the Assembly. The Assembly invited the Committee, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as set out in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit.

In that connection, the Committee will select at its organizational meeting, under agenda item 2, the report or reports of the Joint Inspection Unit that it will consider at its forty-eighth session under agenda item 5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236 and decision 54/474, attention is drawn to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/8, which contains the approved Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the forty-eighth session (E/AC.51/2008/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2008/L.2)

## 3. Programme questions

### (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007

Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation provides that:

> The Secretary-General shall monitor accomplishments, as measured by the delivery of outputs scheduled in the approved programme budget, through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period.

In paragraphs 19 and 20 of its resolution 58/269, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", the General Assembly emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system and in that regard urged the Secretary-General to improve the format and timing of programme performance and evaluation reports. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure that resources are clearly identified in all sections of the proposed programme budget for the performance of the monitoring and evaluation functions. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 62/224, the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in reviewing performance and evaluation reports.

In its resolution 59/275, the General Assembly, in endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II, section B, of the report on its forty-fourth session,[1] decided that the relevant programme of the proposed strategic framework would be considered in conjunction with the corresponding section of the programme performance report. Since the programme performance report reflects the period two bienniums prior to that covered by the proposed strategic framework, the Assembly also decided that the Secretariat would formally present updated information on the relevant parts of the programme performance report on the understanding that such updated information would also be considered. The Assembly further requested that the Secretary-General ensure that future programme performance reports provide more detailed information on the reasons for less-than-full implementation of programmed outputs or their postponement and termination.

By its resolution 61/235, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II, section A, of the report on its forty-sixth session[2] and stressed that future reports on programme performance would be more aligned with the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. It encouraged the Committee, in reviewing performance and evaluation reports, to provide action-oriented recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and impact of the activities of the Organization and recognized the role of the Committee in monitoring and evaluation.

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement 16* (A/59/16).

[2] Ibid., *Sixty-first Session, Supplement 16 and corrigendum* (A/61/16 and Corr.1).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007

**(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011**

In its resolution 58/269, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework to replace the four-year medium-term plan, which would comprise in one document:

(a) Part one: a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part two: a biennial programme plan, to cover two years.

By the same resolution, the General Assembly also affirmed that the strategic framework should constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation and decided to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one.

By its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee at its forty-seventh session,[3] that the Assembly decide to maintain the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the United Nations with effect from the biennium 2010-2011 and to continue to include part one, plan outline, in the strategic framework. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to improve the format of part one and the reflection of the longer-term objectives therein and reaffirmed that the Committee should, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, continue to review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that may arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

In paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and reiterated that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should continue to perform its role in reviewing the strategic framework and to recommend any necessary changes to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly.

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement 16* (A/62/16).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011; part one, plan outline, and part two, biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Part one and Progs. 1-27))

**(c) Evaluation**

**In-depth evaluation**

By its resolution 59/275, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee at its forty-fourth session[1] on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives and the Committee's decision to select the theme "political affairs" for in-depth evaluation in 2006.

In its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III, section C, of its report on its forty-seventh session[3] concerning the in-depth evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of political affairs (E/AC.51/2007/2 and Add.1-4 and Add.3/Corr.1). In paragraph 42 of its summary report (E/AC.51/2007/2), the Office of Internal Oversight Services stated that, in order to fulfil its mandate to conduct an in-depth evaluation of political affairs, it planned to conduct an evaluation of a third group of special political missions, which had not yet been the subject of evaluation, namely, those led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations but managed by the Department of Political Affairs, and to submit a report thereon to the Committee at its forty-eighth session. In chapter III, section C, of its report, the Committee reiterated the importance of the evaluation function and of improving its effectiveness, including the sequence and scope of the evaluation reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

**Documentation**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs: special political missions led by the Department of Political Affairs and administered by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (E/AC.51/2008/2)

**Triennial review**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/275, the Committee, at its forty-eighth session, will undertake triennial reviews of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fifth session[4] on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

**Documentation**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (E/AC.51/2008/3)

[4] Ibid., *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 16 and corrigendum* (A/60/16 and Corr.1).

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fifth session on the evaluation of linkages between Headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication in the framework of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (E/AC.51/2008/4)

**4. Coordination questions**

**(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2007/08.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-seventh session[3] regarding the annual overview report of CEB for 2006/07. In paragraph 13 of the resolution, the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to utilize the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee when considering the related reports of CEB. In the same resolution the Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee, set out in paragraph 153 of its report, whereby it recognized the need to enhance its dialogue on coordination issues with the Joint Inspection Unit and the secretariat of CEB.

**Documentation**

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007/08

**(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development**

In its resolution 60/257, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on the New Partnership for Africa's Development contained in chapter IV, section B, of its report on the forty-fifth session[4]. In paragraph 237 of the report, the Committee recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the progress, including problems, obstacles and challenges, as well as the goals of the United Nations system to be achieved in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

In its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development contained in chapter IV, section B, of its report on its forty-seventh session,[3] including a request to the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to indicate in its next report to the Committee the steps taken to increase the effectiveness of the revitalized clusters and enhancement of United Nations partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in Africa.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2008/5)

## 5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under agenda item 5, the Committee will consider the relevant report or reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, to be decided upon by the Committee during its organizational session, on 30 April 2008.

In its resolution 59/267, the General Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 2 of article 11 of the statute of the Unit and requested that the Unit, as a whole, also take responsibility in the exercise of its collective wisdom with regard to all its reports, notes and recommendations in order to improve the effectiveness of the Unit. The Assembly decided that the Unit should perform its functions and responsibilities strictly in accordance with the provisions of its statute. Furthermore, the Assembly decided that the programme of work of the Unit should be collectively approved, providing the rationale for choice as well as the relevance of the envisaged outcome to improving management and methods and promoting greater coordination between organizations.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-seventh session.[3] In chapter V of that report, the Committee recognized the need to enhance its dialogue on coordination issues with the Joint Inspection Unit and the CEB secretariat. In the same resolution, the Assembly also emphasized that, in full accordance with its mandate to assist the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on coordination, the Committee on Programme and Coordination should enhance its coordination role, through improved cooperation with the CEB secretariat and the Joint Inspection Unit in order to increase planning efficiency and effectiveness so as to continue to ensure the timeliness of the implementation of and prevent duplication and redundancy in the action of the Organization.

**Documentation**

Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit (see E/AC.51/2008/L.2)

## 6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

The Committee for Programme and Coordination has been considering the item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate" annually since its thirty-eighth session. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 61/235, 60/257, 59/275 and 58/269, invited the Committee to continue its discussions on improving its working methods and to submit recommendations thereon.

In its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee regarding improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate, as set out in chapter V of the report of the Committee on its forty-seventh session.[3] Furthermore, the Assembly welcomed the decision of Committee to devote one or two meetings of future sessions to discuss, with high-level participation, a specific issue related to coordination and emphasized the need for the presence of senior programme managers to assist during its deliberations. It also welcomed the work done by the Committee in improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate for further enhancing

effectiveness and efficiency and looked forward to the implementation of the Committee's decision to continue improving its working methods and procedures.

In its recommendations on this item at its forty-seventh session, the Committee called for its organizational sessions to be scheduled no later than six weeks before the beginning of each substantive session and that it would at that time prepare the draft programme of work for its annual session, taking into account the annotated provisional agenda and the status of preparation of documentation. The Committee also decided that the programme of work should identify the specific issue selected for discussion with high-level participation. It further decided to devote more time to informal consultations and encouraged the presence of senior-level members of the Secretariat at such informal meetings with a view to increasing the emphasis on dialogue with and receiving clarifications from the Secretariat, and also emphasized the value added of "informal informal" consultations as a tool for reaching consensus. The Committee decided that it would consider in-depth and thematic evaluation reports in budget years, without prejudice to its consideration of evaluation reports in off-budget years on its request or that of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, taking into account rule 107.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

## 7. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents, their contribution to its work, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

### Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-ninth session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2008/L.3)

## 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

The report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008 and to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

### Documentation

Draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-eighth session (E/AC.51/2008/L.4 and addenda)

# Annex

## Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2008[a]

| | *Term expires on 31 December* |
|---|---|
| Argentina | 2008 |
| Armenia | 2008 |
| Bangladesh | 2010 |
| Belarus | 2008 |
| Benin | 2008 |
| Brazil | 2008 |
| Bulgaria | 2008 |
| Central African Republic | 2008 |
| China | 2010 |
| Comoros | 2009 |
| Cuba | 2008 |
| France | 2009 |
| Haiti | 2009 |
| India | 2008 |
| Indonesia | 2008 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 2008 |
| Israel | 2008 |
| Italy | 2008 |
| Jamaica | 2010 |
| Kenya | 2010 |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 2010 |
| Niger | 2010 |
| Pakistan | 2008 |
| Portugal | 2008 |
| Republic of Korea | 2010 |
| Russian Federation | 2009 |
| Senegal | 2008 |
| South Africa | 2008 |
| Switzerland | 2008 |
| Uruguay | 2008 |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 2009 |
| Zimbabwe | 2009 |

[a] Two seats from the Group of Western European and Other States remain to be filled.